

**Subject: I support redistricting plan outlined by Casey Scott**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2011 11:41 AM

**From:** Lowell Barnes

**To:** <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

**Conversation:** I support redistricting plan outlined by Casey Scott

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I support the redistricting plan for the North State outlined in this article by Casey Scott:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2011/may/15/casey-scott-give-timber-belt-its-own/>

Here's the text of the article:

“I have taken a keen interest in the current California redistricting process. I think it comes with the territory when you are a citizen and the voters of California have decided for the first time in our nation's history that a Citizens Redistricting Commission should control the process of determining the boundaries of state Senate and Assembly and federal congressional districts, instead of the politicians choosing their voters as has been done historically. This is not an easy task for the commission, but if I had been lucky enough to get this job, this is the way that I would draw the lines in my home of Upstate California.

“The first thing I did was look for common interests that define a community, just like the Redistricting Commission's handbook says you're supposed to do. Economics is certainly an important glue that binds a community. Since agriculture is so important to Upstate California communities, I found the Summary of California County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports, 2007-2008 a useful tool in determining how to combine counties into political districts.

“The first thing that I noticed is that the mountainous counties of Northern California share the commonality of vast timber resources. Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Plumas counties are the five largest timber producers in California. It should come as no surprise that these counties also include large percentages of federal lands and the recreational and tourist business associated with them. Turns out that cattle (beef and/or dairy), hay, pasture, sport fishing and commercial fishing are also important economic activities shared by these

counties. These economic activities and high percentages of federal land are also common to Del Norte, Modoc, Trinity, Lassen, Tehama and Lake counties. That is why I would put all these counties together into one Upstate California congressional district and add just enough of northern Sonoma County to make the population work out. This district would also contain four state fish hatcheries and one federal fish hatchery that produce anadromous fish common to the inland and coastal waters. It also combines the federally funded highways in Caltrans Districts 1 and 2. This district makes perfect sense to me, it ought to make perfect sense to you. Rice farmer politicians from downstate might not like it, but then what would you expect?

“Speaking of rice farmers, I also found from the Agricultural Commissioners' Reports that seven counties in Northern California account for all the rice production and processing in our state. (Sorry, Fall River Valley, but this does not include wild rice.) These include Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Yuba, Sutter, Yolo and the northwestern portion of Placer County around the city of Lincoln. Rice is the No. 1 agricultural product in every one of these counties except Yolo, where it is third behind tomato processing and alfalfa hay. It also turns out that the population of this area is very close to what is required in a congressional district. If I got to draw the boundaries of congressional districts, I would definitely make this one. Then their representative could argue about protecting federal crop subsidies while our representative might think that our tax dollars might be better spent elsewhere.

“I hope that my fellow citizens will see the sensibility in the districts that I have proposed, especially the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I know the politicians won't like them, which is probably the best reason why you should. Please email your comments in support of rational redistricting to: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov). I know that people fear change, but I don't think the voters of California passed Propositions 11 and 20 in order to protect the status quo.”

Thanks.

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